CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A hardware driver install system used in conjunction with a computer

2 system, said install system apparatus comprising:

3   means for determining if the hardware device is connected to the computer

4 system;

5   means for instructing a user to connect the hardware device if it is determined

6 that the hardware device is not connected to the computer system; and

7   means for installing a driver for the hardware device if it is determined that the

8 hardware device is connected to the computer system.

1   2.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2   means for determining if a default driver exists for the hardware device.

1   3.   The system of claim 2, further comprising:

2   means for replacing the default driver with the driver for the hardware device if

3 it is determined that the hardware device is connected to the computer system .

1   4.   The system of claim 1, wherein the installing means further comprises:

2   means for acquiring the driver from a network source.

1   5.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2   means for determining if there are a plurality of hardware devices connected to

3   the computer system.

1   6.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2   means for determining which of the plurality of hardware devices connected to

3   the computer system are to be removed.

1   7.   The system of claim 6, wherein said plurality of hardware devices

2   determining means further comprises:

3   means for removing the plurality of hardware devices from a device object that

4   are determined to be removed; and

5   means for removing any shortcut for the plurality of hardware devices that are

6   determined to be removed from the computer system.

1   8.   The system of claim 1, further comprising:

2   means for using a default install system of an operating system for the computer

3   system when installing the driver for the hardware device.

9.   A method for installing a driver for a hardware device on a computer

system, the method comprising:

determining if the hardware device is connected to the computer system;

instructing a user to connect the hardware device if it is determined that the

hardware device is not connected to the computer system; and

installing the driver for the hardware device if it is determined that the hardware

device is connected to the computer system.

10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the installing step further comprises:

determining if a default driver exists for the hardware device.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the installing step further comprises:

replacing the default driver with the driver for the hardware device if it is

determined that the hardware device is connected to the computer system.

12.   The method of claim 9, wherein the installing step further comprises:

acquiring the driver from a network source.

13.   The method of claim 9, further comprising:

determining if there are a plurality of device instances are connected to the

computer system.

1   14.   The method of claim 13, wherein the plurality of hardware devices

2   determining step further comprises the step of:

3   determining which of the plurality of device instances connected to the computer

4   system are to be removed.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, further comprising:

2   removing the plurality of hardware devices from a device object that are

3   determined to be removed; and

4   removing any shortcut for the plurality of hardware devices that are determined

5   to be removed from the computer system.

1   16.   The method of claim 9, further comprising:

2   using a default install system of an operating system on the computer system for

3   installing the driver for the hardware device.

1   17.   A method for installing a driver for a hardware device on a computer

2   system, the method comprising:

3   determining if the hardware device is connected to the computer system;

4   determining if a default driver for the hardware device exists on the computer

5   system if it is determined that the hardware device is connected to the computer

6   system; and

7   replacing the default driver with the driver for the hardware device if it is

8   determined that the default driver for the hardware device exists on the computer

9   system.

1   18.   A method for installing a driver for a hardware device on a computer

2 system, the method comprising:

3   determining if the hardware device is connected to the computer system;

4   instructing a user to connect the hardware device if it is determined that the

5 hardware device is not connected to the computer system; and

6   installing the driver for the hardware device after the hardware device is

7 connected to the computer system.

1   19.   A computer readable medium for a hardware driver install system,

2 comprising:

3   logic for determining if the hardware device is connected to the computer

4 system;

5   logic for instructing a user to connect the hardware device if it is determined

6 that the hardware device is not connected to the computer system; and

7   logic for installing the driver for the hardware device if it is determined that

8 the hardware device is connected to the computer system.

1   20.   The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:

2   logic for determining if a default driver exists for the hardware device.

1   21.   The computer readable medium of claim 20, further comprising:

2   logic for replacing the default driver with the driver for the hardware device if it

3 is determined that the hardware device is connected to the computer system.

1   22.   The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:

2   logic for determining if there are a plurality of hardware devices connected to

3 the computer system.

1   23.   The computer readable medium of claim 22, further comprising:

2   logic for determining which of the plurality of hardware devices connected to

3 the computer system are to be removed.

1   24.   The computer readable medium of claim 23, further comprising:

2   logic for removing the plurality of hardware devices from a device object that

3 are determined to be removed; and

4   logic for removing any shortcut for the plurality of hardware devices that are

5 determined to be removed from the computer system.

1   25.   The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:

2   logic for acquiring the driver from a network source.

1   26.   The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:

2   logic for using a default install system of an operating system on the computer

3 system for installing the driver for the hardware device.

1   27.   A hardware driver install system on a computer system, the install

2   system apparatus comprising:

3   a decision mechanism that determines if the hardware device is connected to the

4   computer system;

5   a user interface that instructs a user to connect the hardware device if it is

6   determined that the hardware device is not connected to the computer system; and

7   a driver installer that installs a driver for the hardware device if it is determined

8   that the hardware device is connected to the computer system.

1   28.   The system of claim 27, wherein the decision mechanism further

2   comprises:

3   logic configured to determine if a default driver exists for the hardware device.

1   29.   The system of claim 28, wherein the driver installer further comprises:

2   logic configured to replace the default driver with the driver for the hardware

3   device if it is determined that the hardware device is connected to the computer system.

1   30.   The system of claim 27, wherein the decision mechanism further

2   comprises:

3   logic configured to determine if there are a plurality of hardware devices

4   connected to the computer system.

1   31.   The system of claim 30, wherein the decision mechanism further

2   comprises:

3   logic configured to determine which of the plurality of hardware devices

4   connected to the computer system are to be removed.

1   32.   The system of claim 31, wherein the decision mechanism further

2   comprises:

3   logic configured to remove the plurality of hardware devices from a device

4   object that are determined to be removed; and

5   logic configured to remove any shortcut for the plurality of hardware devices

6   that are determined to be removed from the computer system.

1   33.   The system of claim 27, wherein the driver installer further comprises:

2   logic configured to utilize a default install system of an operating system for the

3   computer system.

1   34.   The system of claim 27, wherein the driver installer further comprises:

2   logic configured to acquire the driver from a network source.